

**ADVISORY COUNCIL ON
AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES
Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2001
Alaska Building, 13th Floor
Seattle, WA 98104**

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Present: Meryl Abramson, Marc Avni, Martha Becker, Pat Carroll, Gabe Cohen, Thelma Coney, Cleo Corcoran, Timmie Faghin, Lee Gaylor, Suzanne Gehring, Miriam Horrigan, , Murray Meld, Will Parry, Cecil Pollard, Karen Sluiter, Helen Spencer, Greg Stack, Leo Ward, Suzanne Wiley, Fred Yee
Absent: Randy Hayhurst, Peter Steinbrueck
Excused: Juanita Grant, Mae Shields, Cherie Sigrist

STAFF: Rosemary Cunningham, Peggy O'Brien-Murphy, Pam Piering, Allison Ruff, Linda Wells, Karen Winston

GUESTS: Rick Hooper, Mai Nguyen, Stephen Norman, Art Sullivan

Action Summary

MSP Cohen/Avni: Contact US Senators Cantwell and Murray to urge support for a \$15 million appropriation request for the USDA budget, to continue and expand the Senior Farmers Market Program.

Minutes

Murray Meld, Chair convened the meeting at 12:00 p.m. Minutes were approved as mailed.

Murray and Pam expressed thanks and appreciation to **Meryl Abramson** for all the time, energy and work she has contributed to the AC and the Housing Task Force. Murray also presented her with a certificate of appreciation from the ADS sponsors.

Committee Reports

Housing Task Force Report: **Greg Stack** and **Meryl Abramson:** A Housing sub-committee met to develop a presentation on Universal Design. Based on the subcommittee's work, **Allison Ruff** has done some preliminary work on website links and materials for presentation. The Housing Task Force will take this up at their Aug 7 meeting.

Health Care Task Force: **Karen Sluiter** reported that no Task Force meeting was held in July. They are however, reviewing how they interact with AC and other committees and task forces, and how to attract more participants to the Task force. A survey will be sent out to the mailing list to solicit feedback about past programs, timing of meetings and other issues related to future planning.

Outreach & Advocacy Report: *Gabe Cohen* reported that the Pike Market Fresh Produce Pilot Program is so successful there are efforts to continue and expand it. The 5-month, \$57,000 program prepares bags of fruits and vegetables every other week for 500 people on the Meals on Wheels Program. The O&A Committee recommended the Advisory Council urge Senators Cantwell and Murray to support the appropriations request of \$15 million for the Agriculture Dept budget to continue and expand the fresh produce program throughout the states. (*MSP Cohen/Avni*)

The committee also discussed the Administration's tax cut initiative and Social Security Review Commission's charge to come up with plan for privatization. O&A recommended we let our congressional representatives know that we are concerned over privatization of social security, especially with the recent loss experienced for the first time in 401(K) programs, which put many peoples retirement funds in jeopardy. *Pat Carroll* said we need to especially be concerned about people whose only income is derived from Social Security, i.e. fixed income seniors, people with disabilities and children who receive Social Security payments of deceased parents. The AC agreed not to take a position without first exploring the issue further and possibly devoting a future meeting to the subject.

AC Web Site. Gabe reported on Wednesday's excellent AC website training and asked all AC members to view existing site.

Planning & Allocation Committee *Miriam Horrigan*. When the Area Plan was presented to the Sponsors, they requested the committee come up with a rationale as to why items are deleted from the Plan. The next draft of the Plan will have this rationale and be presented to the AC in August. Public hearings on the Area Plan will be held in early September.

At the last meeting *Lillian Tang* gave a presentation on the nutrition program and described some of the concerns in working with the Native American groups. The groups are so dispersed throughout King County that there is no central nutrition center for Indian Elders. The committee decided to meet with representatives in an effort to identify some of the problems and make those issues part of the Area Plan. This meeting is scheduled for August 2nd at Daybreak Star Center.

Nomination Committee *Fred Yee*, reported that the following slate of officers have accepted the nomination for 2002.

<i>Chair.....</i>	<i>Karen Sluiter</i>	<i>Vice-Chair.....</i>	<i>Lee Gaylor</i>
<i>Secretary-Treasurer.....</i>	<i>Suzanne Wiley</i>	<i>Officer at Large.....</i>	<i>Will Parry</i>

Fred introduced each of the nominees and passed out a brief bio of the candidates. Elections will take place at the November meeting. At the October meeting the committee will accept nominations from the floor. Fred noted that if there are more than two candidates for a particular office, written ballots will be used. The officers will serve a one-year term beginning in January 2002.

Cecil Pollard and *Gladys Romero* served on the committee with Fred and had high praise for his leadership of the Nominating Committee.

Directors Report

N4A - Pam Piering recently returned from the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging Annual Training Conference in Boston which featured workshop sessions on two of our programs: the Gold Card and Grandparents Raising Grandchildren. The theme of the conference was the development of home and community-based services. Pam said it would make more sense if the waiver concept were turned around. Instead of having to get a waiver from Medicaid to get home and community-based services funded, the waiver should be used for getting institutional care, and Medicaid should be funding the home and community-based care. She noted the recent Supreme Court Olmstead decision will make a strong impact as people with long-term disabilities are making it clear that they want to stay in the community.

Funding - Out of a total of \$35 million in funding, ADS contracts out \$22 million. Contracting negotiations take place two times a year. The fiscal year begins in July for home-care and Medicaid state-funded programs. In December calendar year programs are negotiated. Negotiations are also in process for the new family caregiver program for eleven contracts totaling \$320,000. \$125,000 will go to increase respite services for caregivers.

State Budget - Day Health program was restored and CHORE was restored with a cap at current enrollment. As people leave, CHORE will gradually be reduced. No cutbacks to Senior Citizens Services Act. Medicaid did not increase eligibility threshold. Legislation was passed to allow a little higher income level for the Medically Needy Program under COPEs. Holding back erosion in several homecare programs is a great relief. Unfortunately, the Case Management Program currently at 85:1, is likely to rise 92:1. We are still meeting with the Governor, Rep Carolyn Edmonds and others trying to rectify this. (Note, Pam intended to mention the \$.50 per hour home-care worker wage increase here.)

King County Cuts - are largely in youth and childcare. Aging cuts are mainly in Day Health, Meals on Wheels, RSVP, Senior Rights Assistance and Volunteer Chore Services.

PROGRAM

Affordable Housing in King County.

Art Sullivan is Program Manager for ARCH, a coalition of cities in east King County that work on a wide range of housing issues. Art said because cities will soon be updating their comprehensive plan, this is the time to remind cities of the changing needs for senior housing. There are several levels to look at - what kind of housing do seniors need? (There have been dramatic changes over the last 10 years). What is the affordability and how does it match the profile of seniors in our community?

Because housing for many seniors has a different intensity use (assisted living/ independent living) cities can accommodate the need for more units of senior housing by regulation and land use rules. For example, Bellevue allows twice as many units on a property if it's senior housing under 600-sq. ft. Bothell does not require a code density limit for senior housing. Many cities also allow accessory units (mother-in-law apartments). This can enable more seniors to stay in their homes, and/or have some extra income.

ARCH has helped fund projects like HUD's Section 8 project-based housing targeted to seniors - creating 400 units of affordable housing in East King County since 1992

Stephen Norman is Executive Director of King County Housing Authority. The Housing Authority is a separate municipal corporation that serves as the housing authority to the county and all the surrounding

suburban cities. They do not operate in Seattle or Renton. The Authority runs about 13,000 units in the county, and owns or administers 3,200 units of senior housing.

Stephen spoke of trends and said there are more elderly in the county and they are getting older and getting poorer (incomes are not keeping up with increases in housing). The majority of programs that have traditionally produced affordable or subsidized housing for seniors are either flat-lined or decreasing. In King County, the over-65 population has increased from 167,000 in 1990 to 200,000 in 2000. Projections suggest 314,000 by 2020 (a 90% increase).

Income issues: Of seniors who rent, 58% are below 50% of median income, 24% of that group pay more than 50% of their income in rent. This is the single most burdened group within the whole series of different groups that the consolidated planing process looks at. Close to 27 % of senior homeowners are below 50% of median income. As stock ages, energy costs spike, and need for weatherization and home repair increases, the elderly are being disproportionately impacted. Nearly 12% of seniors in KC are in group or institutional settings. Although there are quite a few assisted living complexes in KC, most are privately developed, expensive, and do not address the need of affordable housing.

Traditionally, affordable housing has been met by public housing (1,400 senior units exist in KC), but public housing is no longer being built. The fight now is to retain what we have. The Section 8 tenant-based program provides a subsidy to an individual who then finds housing in the private market. (5500 such units exist in KC - 900 of those are for seniors). Section 8 also has a project-based program for private landlords to develop housing with a long-term contract (15-20 years) with the federal government. These contracts are coming to an end. (6,200 units exist in KC). Preserving this stock is difficult because, as contracts expire, landlords have the option to get out of the program and turn the units into market rate housing. Given the price of rents today, more money can be made in the private market. Section 202 (a Section 8 look-alike program dedicated to seniors) is being used to replace existing deteriorating housing at Housing Authority sites. Although this program does not create new housing, without it many units would be permanently lost. Mobile home parks also house many seniors but the market is now finding higher and better uses for this land. Mobile park closures are causing enormous hardship for seniors who have all their equity tied up in a home that they can't sell and can't move.

About 72% of seniors own the housing they live in. We need to try to keep these seniors in their homes as long as possible. To do this support services must be easily accessible and funding for home repair and weatherization must be available for those below a certain income. More work is also needed on reverse equity mortgages and we must develop other ways to help seniors stay in their own homes.

Rick Hooper, City staff for Housing Levy Oversight Committee. The 2000 census shows Seattle as fourth in the nation, among the 50 largest cities, in proportion of the population at 85 and older. Approximately 2% of our population (10,000 people) are 85 and older. This is one-third higher than rest of KC, the state or the nation. Seattle is a city of older and younger people. In order to attract a stronger, middle-aged work force, we must be able to meet the housing needs of people with families. Next year the census results will give a clearer picture of these needs. Because families change and are mobile, the average length of stay in public housing is 5 years. Seniors do not move often, which results in a low turnover of senior units. Currently, 25% of the KC housing waiting list is composed of seniors. The average wait for these 2,300 seniors is 2-3 years.

The Seattle Housing Levy represents about 60% of the city money available to spend on rental, homeownership, housing assistance. The present 1995 levy expires next year and another levy is planned for November 2002. A voter survey indicated support for a levy, but the economy has turned down since that survey. Although there is support for senior housing the feeling is a lot of work need to be done. Rick passed out a fact sheet with information on present levy and said the AC had advised the Levy planning group on the 1995 levy and he would like AC input re priorities for this levy.

Announcements:

Pam announced that Josefina Carbonell, is the new AOA Director. She comes from Little Havana Senior Program, a large multi-services agency in Miami area, and is well versed in the aging field. Pam also announced that N4A will hold their National Conference in Seattle in July 2005.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 2:00 PM

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: August 10, 2001, Noon–2:00 PM
Alaska Building, 13th Fl. Conference Room
618 Second Ave.
Seattle, WA 98104

Meryl Abramson, Secretary-Treasurer
